

MANCROFT LIBRARY
FEB 9 1955

Glad Tidings Magazine

Vol. XXX No. 2

FEBRUARY, 1955



"Kind Friends and Relations"

The picture spread on this month's cover includes a total of 79 individuals, all of whom we believe will be of interest to our readers. They are mostly ministers and their families connected with our Northern California and Nevada District, though some are former workers, or folks well known to us. Each of the pictures came to our attention as part of a photo Christmas card during the past holiday season. The accompanying numbered diagram serves to identify each one.

1		2		3
4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22

(1) Reverend and Mrs. Wesley Steelberg pastors in Redwood City. (2) Reverend and Mrs. Adrian Benning and their two children. Brother Benning is the pastor at Escalon. (3) Evangelist and Mrs. Charles Senechal and their twin daughters. (4) Colusa pastors, the R. A. Wilsons, Jr., with their two youngsters. (5) Eleanor Johnson, pastor of Berkeley's Assembly of God. (6) Former C. A. President, Ray Lockwood with his wife and daughters Pat and Linda. Brother Lockwood now ministers in Chico. (7) European missionaries and Richard Ruffs with their four thriving youngsters. (8) Mr. and Mrs. Russell Olson. The bride was formerly Fern Huffstutler. (9) Judith, Janet, and William Jr. Pickthorn. Their daddy is pastoring in Palo Alto. (10) Reverend and Mrs. George Southwick and Carol, Phil, and Wanda. (11) C. A. President Walt Boring with his wife Katy, son Walt Jr., and daughter Linda. (12) Pastor Griffin, Ramona, and Stan. Brother Griffin pastors Richmond's Central Assembly. (13) Pastor and Mrs. Earl Hubbard of Dos Palos. (14) Weed's pastor Al-

bert Rowley with his family. (15) National C. A. Secretary (and former District President) Dick Fulmer with his family at Springfield. (16) Missionary Ray Pedigo and his family. (17) Honduras missionaries Paul and Ileen Cooper with Steven, Joyce, and Marc. (18) C. C. Burnett, campmeeting speaker for 1954, with his family. (19) James, Norma, and Judy Mae Swanson. Brother Swanson pastors the thriving Hayward assembly. (20) Brother and Sister B. H. Givens of Herlong. (21) The Turner family of Sacramento. Brother Turner is active in rescue mission work in Sacramento. (22) Not savage natives — just our own missionaries, the R. J. Renfroes, in native costume. Liberia is the Renfroes' adopted land.

CONGRATULATIONS

Pastor and Mrs. Jack Colas of Plymouth, are the happy parents of a new son, Walter Marcel, who arrived on December 18.

Steven Lee Fry also arrived on December 18 to make his home with Evangelist and Mrs. Jerry Fry.

The George Elrods, former pastors in Modesto, are proudly announcing the arrival of a fine son, Michael Dean, on December 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Waymire of San Rafael, welcomed Jack Walter Waymire, Jr. into their home on December 21. The happy grandparents are Pastor and Mrs. E. E. Bodenhofer of North Fork.

Evangelist and Mrs. Phil Lindvall of Sunnyvale, welcomed a new son, Ronald David on January 9.

The Arthur Ottosons have recently been made very happy by the arrival of a new daughter.

FOR SALE — A Gulbransen spinet, like new, for \$500.00, and a Decker upright piano, in good condition, for \$250.00. Either of these pianos is suitable for church use. For information write Rev. J. L. Jeffrey, 130 Elm Street, Cloverdale, Calif.

FOR SALE OR TRADE for Bay Area Property — Two exceptionally nice cottages at Bethany Park. They may be purchased furnished or unfurnished and terms can be arranged. For further information write: Mrs. Marion A. Eck, 5480 Bond Street, Oakland 1, Calif. Telephone, ANDover 1-3798.

GLAD TIDINGS

The Official Organ of the
Northern California and Nevada
District Council of the
Assemblies of God, Inc.

P. O. Box 961, Santa Cruz, California

LESLIE T. HOLDCROFT - Editor

W. T. GASTON - Managing Editor

RUTH GERHART, LENORE WILSON - Assistant Editors

DISTRICT OFFICARY

W. T. GASTON - Superintendent

K. M. HAYSTEAD, Assistant Superintendent

J. L. GERHART - Secretary-Treasurer

GENERAL PRESBYTERS

R. J. THURMOND J. L. GERHART

PRESBYTERS

L. R. Anderson O. A. Hart
H. D. Byram R. L. Neal
K. R. Carney K. C. Prinzing
C. W. Clements E. O. Robeck
J. R. Edgar D. N. Robinson
C. L. Elmes Albert Rowley
O. L. Foth J. C. Snyder
R. A. Wilson

Published monthly under the supervision of the District Council Presbytery.

The copy deadline for articles for Glad Tidings is the seventh of each month. The deadline for news is the eleventh of each month. Glad Tidings is published so as to be distributed on the first Sunday of each month.

Subscription price, \$1.50 a year; Canada, \$1.60; Foreign, \$1.75. Single copies, 10 cents.

Entered as second class matter July 3, 1926, at San Francisco, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Re-entered September 6, 1950, at Santa Cruz, Calif.

DISTRICT DEPARTMENTS

Missions —

K. M. Haystead, Secretary

P. O. Box 961, Santa Cruz

District Council —

J. L. Gerhart, Secretary-Treasurer

P. O. Box 961, Santa Cruz,

Phone GArden 6-0630. Office: Bethany Park, 6456 Los Gatos Highway.

Christ's Ambassadors —

Walter A. Boring, President
2012 Aster Street, Arlington Oaks,
West Sacramento, Calif.

Don E. Annas, Vice President
P. O. Box 451, Manteca

J. Kirk Soper, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer
P. O. Box 89, Tracy

Christian Education —

L. W. Suter, Director

P. O. Box 961, Santa Cruz

Women's Missionary Council —

Goldia Anderson, President

P. O. Box 574, El Cerrito

Ferne Murray, Secretary-Treasurer

219 Garfield Street, Santa Cruz

The Current Signs page is contributed by

A. J. Lebeck.

Personal Mention

FERN CALLAHAN writes that she is busy for God in the Hawaiian Islands. In addition to her regular teaching duties in the Waialua Elementary School, Sis. Callahan is engaged in hospital visitation, house-to-house calling, Sunday School and Children's meetings in the Waialua-Haleiwa Assembly and near-by villages.

MORRIS HAMSAKI is very busy in his work in Honolulu where he is serving as Minister to Deaf in First Assembly of God, Director of Religious Education, Editor of Ka Leo Aloha, Teacher in Aloha Bible Institute and Dean of Men.

Up from the Clay

by DAISY KENNEDY

The author with Sarah Peter.



As missionaries so often must do, we were journeying. We had travelled over 250 miles of tedious, dusty, washboard road in blazing tropical sun and sultry heat. Suddenly we came to a spot surprisingly pleasant. There were flowers, beautiful bungalows, a golf course, large office buildings, and cars cruising about the streets. "Why is civilization planted here?" I wondered, "Why have white men left comfortable social circles to dwell here?" For though the community itself was lovely, I knew that just a few miles in any direction was hostile, uncivilized, pagan jungle.

My question was soon answered. A businessman whom we met agreed not only to explain his business, but to show it to us as well. We were invited into his car, and with the African chauffeur at the wheel we set forth on the splendid highway. But the highway soon tapered into a rough latright road with tall elephant grass towering on either side. Our car raised great clouds of dust which rose ever higher behind us. Eventually we came to a halt before a large steel structure. In the sweltering heat we followed our guide over a dusty trail and down a steep slope. There, almost lost in the great ditch it had dug for itself, a huge steam shovel tirelessly filled cart after cart from the miry cavity. We were viewing a diamond mine.

The process of mining diamonds proved to be truly fascinating. The little carts filled with mud by the shovel were drawn up by a cable to the plant above. There the mud went through a vigorous washing, sifting, and sorting process, until only a certain type of gravel remained. It was this mixture which contained the diamonds. From the plant at the mine it was transported in huge locked drums to another plant and once again processed. With more washing and straining, and by careful scrutiny, the diamonds were finally separated. But we found that the bits of raw diamond had no special beauty. It was hard to believe that these indifferent looking rocks were actually

fragments of priceless gems.

A little later our friend took us into his home. He unlocked a safe and from it reverently drew a velvet covered box. He opened it carefully, and suddenly his cherished masterpiece was revealed. There, flashing in the light of the sun, was a strikingly beautiful brooch in the form of a butterfly lavishly encrusted with dazzling diamonds. Every stone was intricately cut and highly polished, and each one sparkled in its flawless beauty.

We are seldom met by greater contrasts than in the diamond industry. When diamonds are first found as plain looking pebbles in the bottom of a trough in a refinery, they certainly have neither glitter nor beauty. How remarkable that a few small stones in a clay pit should be transformed into a beautiful diamond butterfly. Surely there had been a sacrifice of time and energy, there had been hard work and plenty of perspiration, there had been careful thought and striking skill and patience.

And we've thought, as missionaries we're diamond miners too. Since early in 1930 we have penetrated the jungle, waded oozy bamboo swamps, swatted the tetsi fly, and fought the relentless mosquito. We have endured discouragement, we have suffered fear and sickness, we have been weary and tired and oppressed and bathed in the perspiration of our

brow. But we have been in the search for precious treasure, and from time to time we too have made a "find" and for Jesus' sake snatched a trophy from its dark obscurity.

Our African Christians are truly gems — gems dug from pits of paganism, idolatry, witchcraft, and fear. Sarah Peter was just such a one. Buried deep in witchcraft and paganism and unlovely creature though she was, spiritual technicians rescued Sarah Peter. She was washed in the blood of Jesus and polished by His Spirit within. Because she attended church, her husband flogged her and on one occasion knocked out some of her teeth. But her testimony was consistent and His beauty was reflected in her. And that husband became converted, and himself a preacher of God's unsearchable riches. Today Sarah goes from house to house in her Kru community and faithfully witnesses. Often she holds open-air services gathering gems to lay at His feet.

Who could have known that Sarah Peters would be such a spiritual gem? But only on rare occasions are diamonds visible on the surface. They must patiently be dug from the depths. Today millions of souls are still waiting to be dug from the miry clay. Would you invest your prayers, time, and money for these gems?

To him who hearkens to God, God gives ear!

Daisy and John Kennedy with Frances and Johnny.



Brother and Sister Kennedy are here pictured in the chapel of Monte Vista Christian School which the two children attend. Visible on the platform is Monte Vista President R. O. Price.

Twenty Years of District Councils!

In this month when we are looking with anticipation to our 37th annual District Council, it is a matter of considerable interest to survey Councils of past years. Herewith are highlights of the past two decades:

1935

District Council was at St. Helena at the Pentecostal Camp Ground. Superintendent M. T. Draper presided; while Ernest S. Williams was the featured speaker. The Council voted to proceed with the purchase of the St. Helena Auto Park as a permanent campground. The price was to be \$6,000. The District Secretary-Treasurer, J. Paul Thommen, reported a District total of 288 ministers and licentiates, and 114 affiliated and associated churches.

1936

At this Council, J. Paul Thommen became Superintendent; while R. J. Thurmond became Secretary-Treasurer. General presbyters elected were M. T. Draper and J. N. Gortner. The Council requested the newly organized District C. A.'s to prepare their constitution in co-operation with the District presbytery.

1937

Lay delegates to District Council were given specific recognition and it was agreed thenceforth to list the names of these delegates in the District Year Book. The following were elected as District presbyters: R. A. Wilson, R. T. Doherty, C. Ely Persing, T. E. Woods, R. H. Moon, Max Freimark, R. L. Brown, W. R. Patterson, P. C. Tacker, R. J. Renfroe, Wm. Savidge, and D. M. Huston.

1938

The total income of the District office was reported to be \$30,000, an increase of \$8,000 over the previous year. The Council went on record as endorsing the ministry of Glad Tidings Bible Institute. There were reported to be 210 ministers, 214 licentiates, and 140 affiliated and associated churches in the District.

1939

This Council was particularly noteworthy for its establishment of the District Minister's Benevolent Fund. The Council took official cognizance of the recent transfer of *Glad Tidings Magazine* from a Temple publication with R. J. Craig the editor, to District sponsorship with Brother Thommen the editor.

1940

With the untimely death of Brother Thommen during the past year, L. R. Keys was elected as the new superintendent. The rising costs of the publication of *Glad Tidings* were discussed, and it was agreed that for the present the District should subsidize any deficit. There was a new division of the District into sections so that no section contained fewer than 7 churches.

1941

The Council decided to proceed with the building of a church and office building on the St. Helena campground. The stipulation of a \$3,500 limit for a building 40x65 with an office annex was removed only after "much discussion." The total income of the District reached the unprecedented high of \$35,204.26.

1942

During this year there were two sessions of District Council. The first met at San Jose in January for the purpose of electing a new superintendent. Brother Keys had resigned so as to minister in Glad Tidings Temple. R. J. Thurmond became the new superintendent and R. J. Renfroe the secretary-treasurer. At the regular session a voting constituency of 236 gathered. It was decided to delegate the matter of decisions concerning salaries of all District Council workers to the presbytery.

1943

The Council session was in the church building on the St. Helena campground and Superintendent R. J. Thurmond presided. The roster

committee reported the attendance of 130 ordained ministers and 79 licensed. An effort was made to encourage the established churches to support pioneer works in defence housing developments and similar areas, though no formal plan was instituted.

1944

Brother W. T. Gaston, the pastor of Bethel Temple of Sacramento, became the new District Superintendent. R. J. Thurmond, retiring superintendent, was elected secretary-treasurer. Frank M. Boyd, the new Dean of G. T. B. I. was introduced and welcomed into the District. The speaker was Wesley R. Steelberg, Sr.

1945

District Council was during campmeeting and was of short duration. A move was made to change the Council to midwinter. Otherwise, the chief business was the ratification of the elections of the sub-districts and the election of two general presbyters.

1946

The Council adopted the Metropolitan Group Insurance plan which was to become effective when 75% of those eligible applied for membership. Glad Tidings Bible Institute became a District Council school. The entire Council voted to increase the salary of the District Secretary-Treasurer to \$75.00 a week.

1947

The Council was held in Glad Tidings Temple in San Francisco, with Ralph Riggs the speaker. It was agreed to provide a special credentials committee to sit at the time of the Bible School graduation in order to license graduates who wished to enter the ministry. The office of the Sunday School Director was created and Brother L. W. Suter was appointed to this position.

1948

The District Council agreed to accept the offer of Glad Tidings Temple. (Continued on Page 7)

BETHANY BIBLE COLLEGE

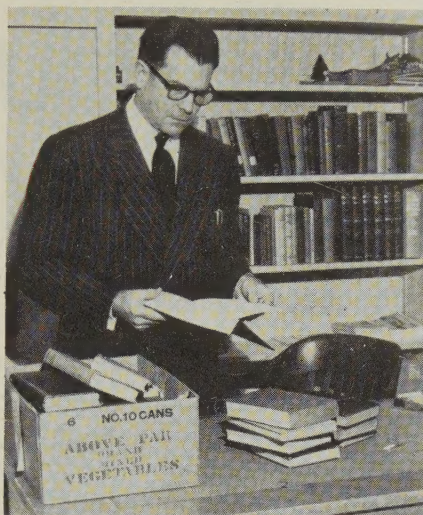
CAMPUS DAY AT BETHANY BIBLE COLLEGE FOR FUTURE STUDENTS

The first Saturday after Easter, April 16th, will be "Campus Day" at Bethany Bible College for all prospective students. Young people who hope to attend Bible College will be invited to take part in all the classes and activities of the day — from chapel service in the morning right on through the noon meal (which will be served on an 'at cost' basis). A student body committee is canvassing the dormitories and homes of Bethany Park to determine how much housing is available for those who must come a long distance and would like a bed for Friday night. Beds will be provided, while they last, on a first come basis which also will take into consideration the distance traveled.

President L. R. Keys issues a warm welcome. Student Body President Everett Wilson is appointing committees which will work to make the guests comfortable and to help them feel at home. Pastors and Alumni all over the district are to be asked to provide transportation for prospective students in their areas.

ALUMNI MEET AT CHICO

About 60 former students and guests met during the C. A. Convention at Chico. Those present indicated hearty interest in enlarging the scope of activities of the alumni. A committee, with Bob Rickett ('52) as chairman, was appointed to gather ideas for student recruitment which may be turned into alumni projects. (Their first project is described above). It was voted to publish an alumni bulletin as soon as a mailing list could be prepared. There was an interesting report by Brother Harold Headrick of alumni activities in Hawaii.



Bethany Bible College instructor, M. H. Heicksen, inspects one of the cartons of books recently donated to the B. B. C. Library by Brother Peirce, the former Dean. The Library is always grateful for gifts of books, and our people and pastors may greatly help the work of the College by donations of this nature. It is suggested that friends coming to District Council bring along gift books for B. B. C. and leave them at the school booth there. The attendants of the booth will see that the books are placed in the library and there will be the saving of the trouble and expense of packing and shipping.

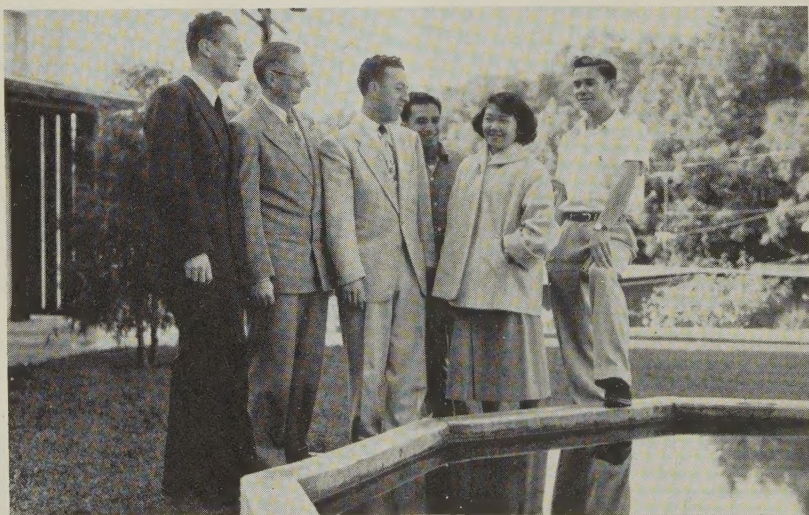
ALUMNI BUSINESS MEETING

at Vallejo during
District Council

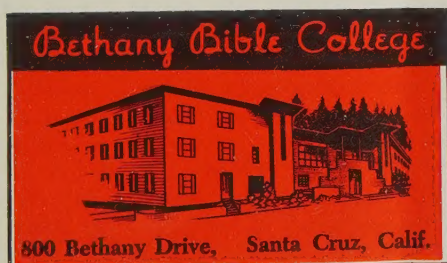
- Election of Officers
- Committee Reports
- Discussion of Alumni Projects: Loan Fund, Prospective Student Day, etc.

**Time and place
to be announced
at the Council**

The important question is not, "Where is the God of Elijah," but "Where are God's Elijahs."



B. B. C. HAS SEVERAL OVERSEAS STUDENTS AGAIN THIS YEAR. Our District School has always counted it a distinct privilege to minister to students who come to us from faraway lands. Some of this year's group are pictured above. Left to right: Werner Honsalek (Germany), Harro Braker (Germany), John Alonso (Spain), Charley Robinson (Philippines), Margaret Honda (Hawaii), and Milo Netzler (Samoa). Other overseas students not pictured include: Bansi Lal (Fiji), and Molly Young (Hawaii).





Richard Orchard inquires . . .

ARE YOU READY FOR TRANSLATION?

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." (Heb. 11:5).

There are three things that seem strange to us as we study the Bible record of Enoch. First, it is strange that so little is said about him. There are three verses in Genesis, one in Hebrews, and two in the Epistle of Jude concerning Enoch, and all we know of him must be pieced together from this scanty record. Another thing that is strange is the shortness of his stay on the earth. It is true that he was here three hundred and sixty-five years, a period equal to ten of our generations, but this was only half the time of most of his contemporaries. One would think that Enoch would have lived longer than the wicked around him. And again, it is strange to note the singularity of the life he lived. In the midst of a generation that was so wicked as to be a stench to God Enoch "walked with God."

As a descendant of Adam, Enoch needed salvation just like the rest of mankind. His conversion occurred soon after the birth of his first-born son, Methuselah. The name of the boy was prophetic of the coming judgment of God upon a wicked world, for it meant "when he is dead it shall be sent" i. e. the deluge. When Enoch learned that the impending judgment would be delayed only so

long as his boy lived, he gave his heart and life to God, and for the next three centuries lived a consistent life before his Lord. It seemed as though God had said, "Do you see that boy of yours? The world will last as long as he lives and no longer. When that baby dies I will judge the world." That was the revelation that brought Enoch to repentance. Paul got his revelation of God on the road to Damascus. Isaiah received his experience in the temple. And every person who considers himself to be a true child of God should have in his memory a time and place and experience of which he can say "that's where I met God."

Both the records in Genesis and in Hebrews say "Enoch walked with God." It indicates that his life was not a spurt, a leap, or a spasmodic hit-or-miss affair. It was consistent. He was "walking in the light" and keeping it up day after day. The record seems to breathe forth the lesson that for three hundred years he never lagged behind or turned aside into some other way of life. With his face toward the goal he pressed toward the mark. No one could turn him aside. The world lost its appeal, and the people of his generation saw him grow into one of those spiritual gems who dot the pages of history. Enoch showed them that it was possible to live a Christian life in spite

of all its difficulties and notwithstanding the wickedness of his companions.

" . . . GOD TOOK HIM." The record in Hebrews says he *"was not found."* Apparently people looked for him, inquired after him, and wondered about his disappearance. But the Word gives us the answer — *"God took him."* One day he was caught away to be with the Lord. A writer has said, "Heaven is but the continuation of the holy walk of earth. The soul's walk with God is a progress to eternal light."

Why was Enoch translated? The Word answers, *"before his translation he had this testimony, HE PLEASSED GOD."* There is a daily walk and a calibre of spirit that brings delight to the heart of God. Surely God gets a great deal of pleasure in having fellowship with a righteous person. *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; AND HE DELIGHTETH IN HIS WAY."* Psa. 37:23.

Many of us today are looking forward to our translation. We are expecting the Lord to come and catch us away to be with Himself. Enoch of old speaks to us from the Word that first we must know the Lord as our Saviour; we must keep up the pace and walk with God day by day; and we must live in harmony with those divine principles that it may be said of each of us, *"he pleased God."*

IT IS SAID THAT —

- 5% OF REPORTED CHURCH MEMBERS DO NOT EXIST.
- 10% CANNOT BE FOUND.
- 20% NEVER PRAY.
- 25% NEVER READ THE BIBLE.
- 30% NEVER ATTEND CHURCH.
- 40% NEVER GIVE TO ANY CAUSE.
- 50% NEVER GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL.
- 60% NEVER GO TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY NIGHT.
- 70% NEVER GIVE TO MISSIONS.
- 75% NEVER ENGAGE IN ANY CHURCH ACTIVITY.
- 80% NEVER GO TO PRAYER MEETING.
- 90% NEVER HAVE FAMILY WORSHIP.
- 95% NEVER WIN A SOUL TO CHRIST.

Our author, Richard Orchard, is an accomplished preacher and Gospel musician with a splendid record of ministry in our District. He currently is engaged in evangelistic work, but he makes Chico his home. His address there is: 869 E. 19th street.

Meet Our Presbyters

This month we present . . .



ALBERT ROWLEY

The last sectional presbyter to be considered is Brother Albert Rowley of the Shasta Section. Brother Rowley pastors Glad Tidings Assembly in Angel Valley at Weed. Except for one brief interlude, he has been presbyter since 1949, and for the same time has been pastor in Weed. (For one year, he was presbyter in the North Sacramento Section before he assumed his present office).

Brother Rowley has the unique distinction of having devoted his entire ministry to the Northern California-Nevada District. In addition to his present pastorate at Weed, he also has pastored Boulder City, Nevada; and in California; Fort Jones, Mount Shasta, Sterling City, and Willows. He is an alumnus of Glad Tidings (now Bethany Bible College) having graduated in 1936. In his several pastorates, he has had some experience with building programs and in the purchase of property and general expansion.

In the Nazarene church, Brother Rowley first met the Lord, but while attending the District mid-winter Convention in Oakland in 1931, he received his Pentecostal experience and call to the ministry. Thus, he stepped out and, after Bible school training, began the ministry that we have described. He tells us that in entering the ministry he left a most interesting job as test driver for the Caterpillar Tractor Company.

Brother Rowley is known among us for being a competent minister of the Word, and a thoughtful efficient steward of the responsibility that is entrusted to him. He has a reputation for being a persevering and conscientious pastor and Christian leader. He faithfully and competently administers one of the largest geographical sections of Northern California and serves to maintain a thriving Full Gospel witness throughout this rather thinly populated and somewhat isolated portion of our state.



District missionaries, the James E. Bakers are back after 8 years of overseas service. In this time they ministered in China, Hongkong, and Formosa. They will be ministering in our District soon and have colored movies and slides of their work. At last report they were seeking to make arrangements to be with us at District Council.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

(Continued from Page 4)

ple to lease the Bible Institute property for one dollar a year. A committee was appointed to investigate sites and future possibilities of a new Bible school. The secretary reported 164 affiliated churches and 41 associated churches. There were 610 ministers in the fellowship.

1949

The office of assistant superintendent was created, and Brother C. Ely Persing of Richmond was elected to fill it. The office was to draw no salary and involve little responsibility except in the case of the incapacitation of the superintendent. Lassen-Plumas was separated from Nevada to form a separate section.

1950

An important decision of this Council, which met in Oakland, was to relocate the Bible School at Bethany Park. The Secretary's report declared that there was a total of 730 in ministerial fellowship in our District, and a total of 233 affiliated and associated churches.

1951

The expanding fellowship, with a total of 251 affiliated and associated churches saw fit to enlarge the full-time District officary by the election of a paid, resident, assistant superintendent. Thus, Brother Kenneth M.

Haystead came into his present office. The general presbyters elected were L. R. Keys and C. Ely Persing.

1952

A new method of electing District presbyters was inaugurated and a special resolution asked for churches to write into their budgets regular support for Bethany Park and the Bible School development. It was agreed to change the date of the Council from January to February.

1953

Inasmuch as R. J. Thurmond withdrew his candidacy as Secretary-Treasurer, Joseph L. Gerhart was elected to fill this office. It was agreed to assist both the Sunday School and Missions Departments by the appointment of Sectional Representatives for each. Sister Goldia Anderson was elected WMC President to succeed Sister Thurmond who had served for the past 13 years.

1954

A total of 275 ordained ministers attended. It was voted to launch a new credential examining procedure, and also to provide a two-day regional minister's institute in each area of our District. Ground work was laid to make Glad Tidings Bible Institute a four-year college. R. J. Thurmond and J. L. Gerhart were elected general presbyters.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - NEVADA DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

FEBRUARY
22 - 23 - 24 - 25

Evening Speaker



BUSINESS SESSIONS

Mornings and Afternoons

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

During business sessions

BETHANY BIBLE COLLEGE



THOMAS F. ZIMMERMAN
Assistant Superintendent
Assemblies of God

Southfield, Michigan

Visual demonstration — "No Choice but Onward."

Wednesday evening

CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS DEPARTMENT

Presenting: "Action for 1955!"

OPENING RALLY

Tuesday, 7:30 p. m.

Speaker:

LILLIAN
TRASHER

HOME MISSIONS - FOREIGN MISSIONS

Missionary speakers and presentation of awards

CHURCH EXTENSION FELLOWSHIP

Report and Proposals

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY COUNCIL

Illustrated review of '54

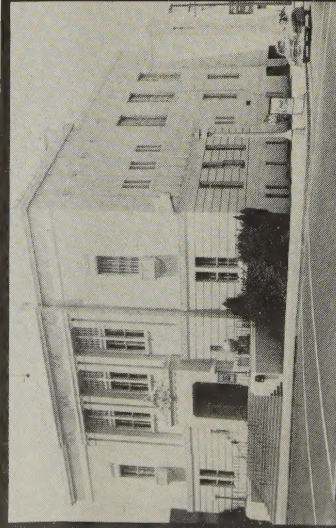
Tuesday 10:00 a. m. and 2:00 p. m.

ORDINATION SERVICE

Twenty-five approved candidates

For accommodations or hotel reservations write:

Pastor Robert C. Jones, 1408 Ryder Street
Vallejo, California.



VALLEJO, CALIF.

- Veterans' Memorial Auditorium -

Marin and Alabama Streets

PLEASE REMOVE AND PLACE ON BULLETIN BOARD

HERE AND THERE

CLOVERDALE — Rev. W. M. Webb recently showed an Oral Robert's film to our congregation. Pastor A. M. Redding of Highway City was with us for one week of special meetings which the Lord wonderfully blessed. Evangelist Velma Lackey of Modesto is to be with us for revival meetings soon. J. L. Jeffreys, pastor.

COLUSA — The Capitol Section Fellowship meeting was held here on January 10. Evangelist Carl Oney brought the afternoon message enabled by a rich anointing of the Spirit. During the annual business meeting, Rev. R. A. Wilson, Sr., and Mrs. O. C. Arnesen were re-elected on the nominating ballot to service as District Presbyterian and Sectional W. M. C. Director. The evening service was the occasion for the dedication of a new 10-room Sunday School annex. Bro. W. T. Gaston made a few remarks of exhortation to the congregation and then led in a dedicatory prayer. Brother Joseph L. Gerhart brought the service to a close with a stirring message on "Prosperity and Success."

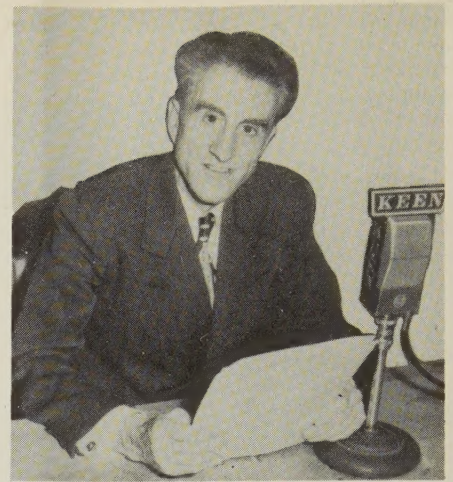
DALY CITY — We want to thank God for the growth and blessings which our church has experienced in the Lord during the past year. Among those who have ministered to us are Evangelist and Mrs. Silas Jones, Rev. and Mrs. Bobby Ray, Bro. and Sis. "Rusty" Baker. These missionaries have also been with us for inspiring and challenging services: Bro. and Sis. Bernhard Johnson, Sr., John Franklin, Ovid, Dillingham, Bro. and Sis. Luce, and Robert J. Renfroe. W. P. Rutledge, pastor.

EL CERITO — Our congregation recently enjoyed a revival meeting with Evangelist and Mrs. "Rusty" Baker. A number of young people were saved and reclaimed and the entire C. A. Department has received a remarkable boost. E. Wm. Anderson, pastor.

EUREKA — The Redwood Section Fellowship Meeting and Watch Night service were held here on December 31. During the annual business meeting the following were elected: R. L. Neal, re-elected District Presbyterian; V. T. Eldridge, secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Iva Marlenee, W. M. C. Director; Wilford Frazier, C. A. Chairman. Brother Virgil T. Eldridge was the afternoon speaker. We were privileged to have Bro. W. T. Gaston as our guest speaker for the Watch Night Service. His theme, "Let's Go On," was very timely and challenging for the occasion. V. T. Eldridge, Secretary-Treasurer.

GREENVILLE (Indian Mission) — We came here to minister in November and are rejoicing in what the Lord is doing. We have set up the church with a membership and also organized the Christ Ambassadors. The newly elected officers are, President, Leland Washoe; Vice-President, Johnny Smith and Secretary-Treasurer, Gladys Smith. The people are very eager to do something for Jesus and are working with much enthusiasm and ardor. We are all looking forward to spiritual progress and growth during the coming months. Wesley Davidson, pastor.

HAYWARD (Bethel Assembly) — On February 27, at 3 P. M. we are to have a Dedication Service of the new Bethel Assembly of God, 352 B Street. Ralph M. Riggs, General Superintendent, will be the speaker. Other participating ministers will be W. T. Gaston, K. M. Haystead, and J. L. Gerhart. The Lord has enabled us to finish the building in 10 months' time. It is 61x140 feet with a two story unit at the rear of the building. The main auditorium seats over 700 and has a spacious foyer and two large nurseries. One of the striking features of the structure is a fully illuminated revolving cross atop the tower which is



Edward R. Gomes, Radio Pastor. The Sunnyvale First Assembly of God is completing the fourth year of radio ministry over Station KEEN, San Jose. The radio program is noted for its name "Morning Evangels" and covers the Bay-area.

visible for many miles. The building stands in Hayward as a monument of God's goodness to a group of people with faith to believe. James R. Swanson, pastor.

KERMAN (Grace and Truth) — Evangelist Paul Kaufman was with us in December for a very fine evangelistic campaign. Under Brother Kaufman's ministry, we were privileged to hear the finest of Gospel preaching and the entire congregation was stirred to a new appreciation for the Word of God. One man came to Christ for salvation during the ten days of meetings. T. E. Fourt, pastor.

LAKEPORT — Evangelist Earl Henderson held a five weeks' meeting with us recently. The sincerity in preaching the Word from night to night, and the passion for



Pastor and Mrs. R. A. Wilson, Jr., are indeed happy that the Lord has enabled them and their people to erect this fine annex to their Colusa church. (See "Colusa" item on this page.) Also, the Wilsons report most encouraging progress in their Sunday School. They have



been awarded a gold crown for the past two years for the first time in the history of the church. Their Sunday School had a 40% attendance increase last year, and at present is averaging another 25% higher.

souls shown by the Evangelist, drew us all nearer to our wonderful Saviour. There were days of spiritual upreaching and soul-searching, and God alone knows the total results of these meetings. Our prayers go with Brother Henderson in his future services. S. S. Webster, pastor.

NEVADA CITY — The congregation of this fine church is growing so rapidly that we are now beginning to form plans for a new building within the near future. We are grateful for what the Lord is doing in our midst. Pike Robinson, pastor.

NORTH FORK — Indian Evangelists Manuel Cordova and Frank Manuel were with us for one week of meetings recently. Immediately following this meeting we had Sister Nola Stout and Sister Norma Elliott of Ava, Missouri, with us for three weeks. There were many who heard the Full Gospel for the first time. Two received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and our church was strengthened by their preaching and singing. E. E. Bodenhofer, pastor.

PLYMOUTH — We have just recently closed a good revival meeting with Evangelist Joseph Williams of Rocklin, and his co-worker, Stephen Bird of Sacramento. The fellowship, cooperation and ministry of these brethren was just what we needed. Our small band of Christians was led into a deeper life of prayer and to a greater appreciation of God's Word through Bro. Williams' ministry. They were also greatly inspired and blessed by the anointed singing of Bro. Bird. We are anticipating having these ministers back next summer for another campaign. Jack Colas, pastor.

RENO — New Year's Day was the occasion for another Annual Fellowship Meeting here in Glad Tidings. A large number of visiting ministers and friends came in from other Sections to worship with us. Evangelist Kathleen Carter, Fallon, Nevada brought a most appropriate message on "The Touch of God" during the afternoon service. In spite of heavy snow fall and bad highways, there was a crowd of nearly 300 who enjoyed the fellowship dinner served by the ladies. Bro. and Sis. Joseph L. Gerhart and Carole were special guests for the day. Carole furnished several lovely Vibraharp numbers, and Bro. Gerhart brought a splendid, encouraging evening message on the theme "Go Forward." We, of Glad Tidings, were also privileged to have the Gerharts with us for the Sunday morning service. Charles L. Elmes, pastor.

RICHMOND (Central Assembly) — Our first Men's Fellowship Dinner was enjoyed by 86 men on November 30th. Rev. Thomas Ming, Jr., pastor from Napa, was the speaker of the evening. There were many expressions from the men as to their enjoyment and appreciation of this first Men's Meeting. Special music was furnished by the Hobbs Family and the Melody Male Quartet. Russel Griffin, pastor.

ROCKPORT — We had our Sectional Fellowship meeting at Rockport on January 10. God wonderfully blessed this little church. They are battling against many odds but God is surely proving Himself to them in power and conquest. Bro. Howard Call is the pastor, and they now have 53 in Sunday School. The afternoon message was

Evangelist
and Mrs.
John
McPherson.



EVANGELIST AND MRS. JOHN McPHERSON have ministered in a large number of churches throughout this District during the past year. One of the outstanding features of Brother McPherson's ministry is the "Indian Powwow." This is a service especially designed for the children. It has been very successful in stimulating enthusiasm for church and Sunday School. The Indian Powwow has all the atmosphere of an Indian Camp complete with Indian money and a trading post. It is one hour long and consists of motion songs, Bible stories, adventure, surprises, object lessons in magic, and much use of the chalk board. Brother McPherson wears his Indian costume as an added attraction for this service which usually brings out a large number of parents along with the children. In the adult services, Sister McPherson often assists her husband in vocal numbers with electric guitar accompaniment.

brought by P. E. Robertson, St. Helena, and Bro. Don North of Covelo, spoke in the evening. It was a good day of fellowship and seeking the Lord. Pray for these folk as the saw mills have been closed down for three weeks. J. R. Edgar, Presbyterian.

SALIDA — The Central-San Joaquin Fellowship Meeting was held here on January 3. The morning service was under the direction of Sister Cook, W. M. C. Director. Brother Edwin Cole, of San Bruno, was the morning speaker. The afternoon service was well attended and Bro. K. M. Haystead brought a very challenging message. Our day of Fellowship was climaxed by an evening service which was enjoyed by a capacity attendance. Bro. W. T. Gaston spoke and the power of the Lord was upon the people. All of the services were blessed of God. Dan Robinson, Presbyterian.

SONORA — We are thanking the Lord for the eight souls who have been saved here during recent weeks. One of this number has received the might infilling of the Holy Spirit. We are believing the Lord for His continued blessing upon the work of this people. Robert Scott, pastor.

STOCKTON (Bethel Assembly) — We have just closed a very good revival here with Evangelist Lloyd Reece, of Pasadena. Brother Reece did some wonderful preaching, and the hearts of the people were blessed as the Word went forth night after night. In all there were six saved or brought back to the Lord, and also two miracles of healing. We can recommend this young Evangelist as one who is out to get souls saved and to see the work of the Lord move forward. H. L. Blankenship, pastor.

WEOTT — This Assembly enjoyed a very good revival with Bro. and Sis. Bob

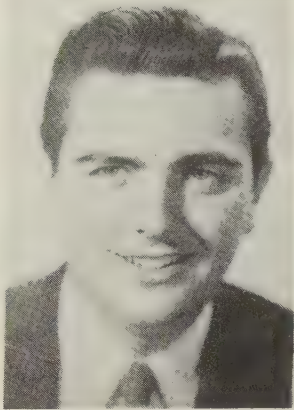
Greer, of Miranda, California, recently. Their messages in song were certainly appreciated and Bro. Greer's sermons were pointed and challenging to the sinner to accept the Lord as Saviour. Seven adults accepted this challenge for which we praise the Lord. The revival spirit continues in our midst and one more soul has knelt for Salvation. Virgil T. Eldridge, pastor.

WINDSOR — We have just closed a revival with Bro. and Sis. Earl McMilin. On the closing night of the meetings, there were five at the altar seeking God for salvation. We started services here in an old school building in March, 1954. Now the Lord has enabled us to purchase a fine lot on Highway 101, and we are making our plans for a new church building in the near future. We had 61 in Sunday School the first of January and are praising God for all He is doing here in this locality. Mack Lancaster, pastor.

YERINGTON, NEV. — The ministry of Bro. and Sis. Joseph L. Gerhart and Carole, was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by this congregation on January 2. Sis. Gerhart spoke to the C. A.'s and Carole furnished several beautiful numbers on her Vibraharp for all of the services. The message brought by Bro. Gerhart was most encouraging for our little band of believers. We are seeing progress here and rejoice in all that the Lord has done and for all that He is going to do. Aletha Edsall, pastor.

The new editor of the *C. A. Herald* is Vernon McLellan. He succeeds Gwen Jones who has been transferred to a position as associate editor of the *Sunday School Counsellor*.

CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS



Life's Backward and Forward Look.

by Don Annas

C. A. Vice-President

In the book of Psalms, the nineteenth chapter and the tenth verse, we read these words, "The days of our years are three score years and ten . . ." Seventy years seems like a long time to live, but how quickly do they slip by one by one until finally the last one is reached. Then comes life's backward and forward look. We suddenly realize that our allotted time here on earth is up. Eternity awaits us. What will our destination be? What we see in life's forward look will depend largely on what we have seen in life's backward look.

The apostle Paul looking over his past life wrote these words, "I have fought a good faith, I have finished the course, and I have kept the faith." Paul's backward look was a satisfying look, not only to him but to God. Paul had fought a good fight against the forces of hell; he had finished the work that God had given him to do; and, most of all, he had kept the faith! After Paul had summed up his backward look, he turned and viewed the future and this is what he saw in store for himself: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day . . ."

In the nineteenth chapter of Genesis we get a picture of the closing days of another man's life. This man is none other than Lot. In this scene, we see him dwelling in a cave with his two daughters, for he had been forbidden to dwell in Zoar. Lot's backward look was not a pleasant one. He did not see a life of self-denial and sacrifice as Paul did, but

rather one of selfishness given over to fleshly desires. It was one that caused him to lose his sons-in-law in the flames of Sodom and Gomorrah. It was one that allowed him to see his wife turned into a pillar of salt and to have his lifetime of labour and work, ambitions and dreams, toil and sweat, destroyed in a few moments of time. The humiliation of Lot's past life was only accentuated by the final disgrace put upon him by his two deceiving daughters who had learned their evil ways in Sodom, the place where they had been raised.

To evaluate properly the dark and dismal future that eternity held for Lot, one must look at the brilliant life, past and future, of his uncle Abraham. Abraham, who obeyed God, has gone down in God's list of heroes which is found in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Surely Abraham's future, when he found it time to die, was far brighter even than his illustrious past. Whether Abraham looked backward or forward in his life, the view was truly blessed and satisfying. And yet Abraham and Lot had had equal opportunity to succeed for God or fail miserably.

Paul the apostle could have failed God too, but he chose rather to please Him. And the same choice is before every one of us. While we are now travelling toward that inevitable goal of death which is to be every man's destiny, how are we preparing for the future? What sort of a forward look have we? Some build on the sand, and some acquire only perishable wood, hay, and stubble. May God grant to all of us a life that we may look backward to as being worthy, and a present forward vision of joyous anticipation of a heavenly eternity in the presence of our Lord.

President's Column

I recently had the privilege of speaking at a banquet in Madera when the C. A.'s there installed their new officers. I was much impressed with their motto for the occasion which read "Let us strive in '55." During the course of the evening I gave the motto quite a little thought and decided that I might add a little to it and say "If we strive in '55 we'll be alive in '56." Just a little corny perhaps but being alive in 1956 isn't such a bad idea at that. When I stop and think of the competitive world in which we live, Satan making a thousand bids every day for our youth who are the cream of our organization, I feel almost compelled to state that if we don't put our shoulders to the wheel and "strive" we're not liable to be very alive a year from now.

Top business men and the leaders of the free governments are all saying that 1955 is the year of opportunity. Newsweek magazine says that there is virtually no danger of war this year. President Eisenhower says that the picture is looking much improved. I say that if we all get together and work and "strive," if Jesus tarries we'll not only be alive in '56 but we'll have seen the greatest advancement in the kingdom of the conquering Christ ever recorded in history. So let's make this our motto too and thank the Madera C. A.'s for the idea, "Let us strive in '55."

Walt Boring.

"HE-MEN" CHRISTIANS!

On the campuses of our colleges and universities there is a great spiritual move called the "Campus Crusade for Christ." In the Campus Crusade Communique for January 1955 we read one of the most startling stories ever to come out of a leading university. Any of our sports minded C. A.'s will be able to tell you that the mighty UCLA Bruins were the nations outstanding football squad of 1954. But outside of the fact that the Bruins can punt, pivot and pass better than any other eleven it is little known that they can also PRAY. At least six of coach Red Saunders starting lineup are members of the Campus Crusade for Christ. These boys pray before and after every game. Through their influence they have been able to get 50% of the squad to be active in the Crusade.



This lovely offset printing machine was purchased by our Speed-the-Light offering at the Chico Convention. It is to be used by Brother John Kolenda of Germany for his German Gospel Publishing House. The machine cost \$3,000, and according to Brother Kolenda, it is exceptionally well made and efficient in operation.

C. A. Chit-Chat

Here we are again C. A.'s with our second *Chit - Chat* session of 1955.

We are always happy to hear of projects taken on by the various groups for the betterment of their respective churches. This is the case in the report of the ALTURAS Ambassadors. These young people are buying a Hammond Chord organ for their church, and they say it is a real help in their services.

The young people of AUBURN'S First Assembly recently held an unusual dinner. The present members of the C. A.'s sponsored it for all the former C. A.'s who had either moved away or passed the age limit. The whole dinner was a great success, and it was suggested that the C. A.'s make it an annual affair.

The C. A.'s of First Church in OAKLAND were the host to the East Bay section's first annual Christmas party. There were reported to be 279 Bay area Ambassadors in attendance.

In the January election in Grace and Truth Church in KERNAN the following officers were chosen: Clyde Cottrell, President; Betty Jo Clement, Vice-President; Kathy Cottrell, Secretary; Hope Weatherson, Treasurer;

Wanda Hall, Reporter; and Brother and Sister Earl Shuey, Counsellors.

Well C. A.'s, that's all the news for this month. How about making sure that your group has a report in next month? If you have: elected new officers, had a dinner, organized a ball club, or had some sort of a social, let us hear about it. IT IS NEWS.

All news should be sent to Don Sturgeon, 1443 Lincoln Way, Auburn, California.

S-T-L OFFERINGS

C. A. groups who sent an offering to the Fall Convention to compete for the Speed-The-Light plaque. The winning group was Bethel Temple, Turlock.

		per capita
Capay	\$ 6.07	
Pleasant Valley	6.25	\$.63
McKinneyville	10.00	.33
Carmichael	14.50	.85
Susanville	15.00	
Richmond, Central Assembly	25.00	.50
Yuba City	30.00	2.50
Grass Valley, Bethel	48.75	3.28
Oakland, First Church	165.00	5.50
Sacramento, Bethel	235.00	2.00
Turlock	1185.00	23.70

TOP SUPPORTERS:

Here is a list of the FIFTEEN top givers for the period between January 1, to December 31, 1954. This list is taken from the District C. A. records which includes all money receipted during this period of time. If you send your money in all at once at the end of the year and your money wasn't received before the closing of the books we will recognize your group and your offering in the next issue of the Glad Tidings if your offering totals sixty dollars or more. To these who have given so much and so regularly to our District C. A. office we give a Royal Salute. To all those who have been so very faithful this past year we say Thank You Very Much for your helping hand, whether your offering was large or small.

Turlock "Wow"	\$268.92
Modesto, 6th & G	120.00
Lodi	120.00
Stockton, Calvary	110.00
Escalon	104.00
Redwood City	90.00
Richmond, Full Gospel	80.00
Madera, First Assembly	76.69
Atwater	72.05
San Francisco, Glad Tidings	70.00
Sacramento, Capital	65.73
Oroville	60.00
Quincy	60.00
Richmond, Central Assembly	60.00
Salida	60.00

STOP

if you live in one of the far off
outlying areas of our District.



YOU

are going to have
a convention all your own
this year.

We are planning FOUR Regional Spring Conventions for you. If you will read this page next month you will find out the location of each convention and the name of your speaker.



SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

This is the month for

THE SOUTHWEST REGIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

Our Regional Sunday School Convention meets at Long Beach, California, on February 8, 9, and 10. It is sincerely hoped that a worthy representation of our District people will attend. Some of the special features of this Convention are as follows:

RALLIES

Each evening there will be great inspirational rallies with outstanding messages on the challenge of the Sunday School.

CONFERENCES

Twenty-five conferences will be conducted, 17 of which will deal directly with Sunday School work. The other conferences will cover such phases as: Christ's Ambassadors, Foreign Missions, Radio, New schools, Men's Fellowship, Evangelism, Education, and WMC.

VISUALS

There will be two visuals in the evening services. One is a repeat from the 11th National Convention by request entitled "Train Up a Child." The other visual is entitled "On to a Million."

PANEL

A feature of one evening service will be a panel discussion. Problems by the audience will be discussed.

NOTES

A splendid book of convention notes will be available to you for \$1.00

AWARDS

A plaque will be given to the church having the largest delegation present, and another plaque to the church whose delegation traveled the largest number of miles.

REGISTRATIONS

All registrations should be sent immediately to: L. W. Suter, P. O. Box 961, Santa Cruz, California.

On April 24, National C. A. Day, the Department is launching a new phase of the One-Eight Crusade which includes a four-week reading course featuring the Book of Acts. Watch for details.

God's songbirds sing in the leafless tree as well as in the green.

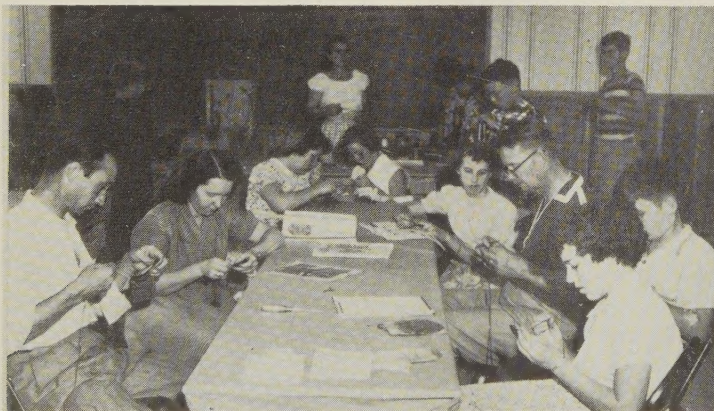
Watch This Column

Average attendance for the month of December.

1. Sacramento, Bethel Temple	854
2. Turlock, Bethel Temple	462
3. Hayward, Bethel Assembly	461
4. Redwood City	401
5. Richmond, Central Assembly	307
6. Sunnyvale, Assembly	262
7. Oakland, Calvary	246
8. Roseville, Assembly	241
9. Merced	215
10. Chico, First	192
11. Madera, First	189
12. Live Oak	161
13. Burlingame	145
14. Red Bluff	140
15. Biggs	130
16. South San Francisco	120
17. Willows	118
18. Westwood	104
19. Anderson	95
20. Winters	95
21. Redding, Bethel	85
22. Tehama	84
23. Stirling City	56
24. Paradise	50
25. Chico, Pleasant Valley	40
26. Oroville, Honcut	28

Listed below is the school with the highest percentage of increases for the month of December over the average attendance for November for each section:

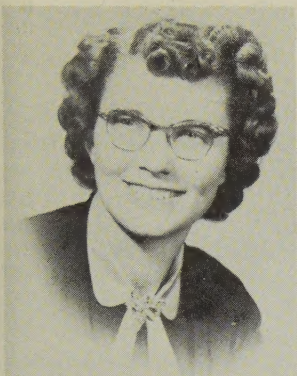
Section	December	Increase
1. Sacramento Valley		
Tehama	84	23.5%
2. Central San Joaquin		
Turlock	462	3.1%



The great majority of boys and girls love crafts and are delightfully happy for the inclusion of craft activities in a weekday Christian education project. The folks in the above pictures were in attendance at the Junior High Summer Camp during 1954, and they evidently were willing to forego attractive outdoor activities for the sake of craftwork. Many a boy or girl has come to a children's evangelistic meeting just for the sake of the crafts and remained to be converted and established as a Christian. The proper type of craft program may effectively reinforce the lessons of the Bible class, besides

providing a wholesome informal spiritual atmosphere where the ways of Christian conduct may be learned. Crafts admittedly require some expense, considerable effort, and, oftentimes, special facilities. But there are many who testify that a good craft program benefits far more than it costs and a little careful thought will solve many of the supposed problems that it generates. As another tool in the hands of a bodily, soul-loving, children's worker, surely crafts achieve results of abiding spiritual value.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY COUNCIL



FEBRUARY-- Month of Hearts

by
GOLDIA ANDERSON

Let's have a heart to heart talk "for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matt. 6:21.) We are therefore concerned to be right and wise in the choice of our treasure, because the temper of our minds, and consequently the tenor of our lives, will be accordingly either carnal or spiritual, earthly or heavenly. The heart follows the treasure, as the sunflower the sun. Where the treasure is there the value and esteem are, there the love and affection are,

that way the desires and pursuits go, thitherward the aims and intents are levelled, and all is done with that in view. Where the treasure is, there our cares and fears are; there our hope and trust are; there our joys and delights will be and there our thoughts will be; there the inward thought will be, the first thought, the frequent and familiar thought. THE HEART IS GOD'S, may He ever have it, our treasure must be laid up with Him, and then our souls will be lifted up to Him.

Goldia Anderson.

February WMC Activities At Long Beach

February 8 — WMC Leadership Conference. For all District and Sectional Officers.

February 9—Fellowship Luncheon.

February 10 — Conference and Panel Discussion.

In each local Church

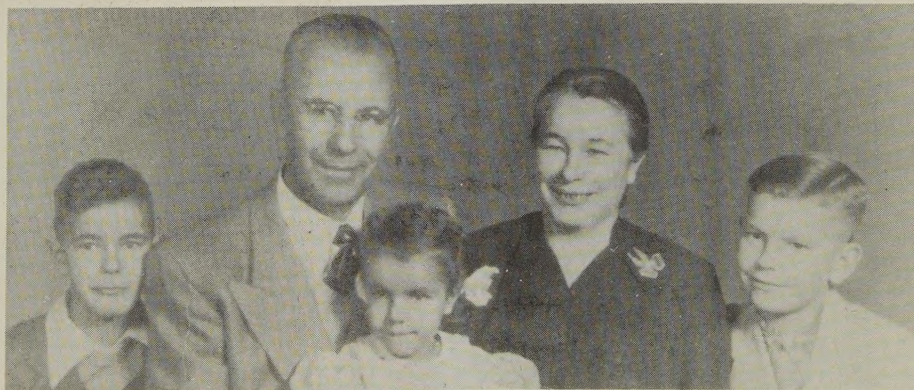
February 13 — WMC DAY. The ladies of the WMC will be publicly honored and an annual offering for the work of the National WMC Department received.

At Vallejo

February 22—See column three, this page.

Another Missionary Expresses Thanks to WMC

In a recent letter, Sister Elsie M. Isensee expresses heartfelt thanks for our contributions for students in the Men's Bible Institute in Matamoros, Mexico. She mentions particularly: towels, dish towels, pillowcases, sheets, quilts, and good used suits and ties. Concludes Sister Isensee, "Words cannot express the gratitude we feel, but we pray God richly to bless you as you continue to share in the efforts of your missionaries everywhere."



The Bernhard Johnsons, missionaries to Brazil, sailed from New York on January 27 aboard the S. S. Brazil. They wish to thank the members of the WMC and others who have helped them with provisions and support. They request our continuing prayers.

FEBRUARY 22

WMC day at District Council

10:00 a. m.

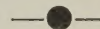
2:00 p. m.

Featured Speakers:

Lillian TRASHER

(The Nile Mother)

Mrs. J. GARLOCK



★ Remember to bring your pennies to Convention for our PENNY PARADE.

CURRENT SIGNS

Religious Interest Increasing

This year, according to estimates from the Department of Commerce and Labor, a total of \$675,000,000 will go into religious construction.

The following will show the increase each year since 1945:

1945	—	\$ 26,000,000
1946	—	76,000,000
1947	—	126,000,000

While this immediate post-war growth indicated substantial increase, the trend really began shooting upward in 1948 as more and more materials became available with the figure for that year almost doubling that of 1947.

1948	—	\$251,000,000
1949	—	360,000,000
1950	—	409,000,000
1951	—	452,000,000
1953	—	472,000,000
1954	—	585,000,000
1955	—	675,000,000

What is behind this phenomenal growth in religious building?

In the last 25 years, church membership according to one authority has shot up from some 50 million to 95,000,000, while the population has only increased less than one third.

During this quarter century period more than 58,000 churches have been built and religious giving for new structures has likewise skyrocketed.

Behind this tremendous growth are many factors. Religious leaders lay heavy stress that today man is searching for spiritual security and his disillusionment with materialism. Thousands of young people are going into religious training. Many religious books are now among the best seller lists. Newspapers and magazines are devoting more and more of their columns to religious and spiritual news. Motion pictures and television are showing manifestations of tremendous spiritual interest. Today we have less than 300,000 churches but it is estimated by 1975 we will need another 100,000 which will mean some \$8 billion in expenditures to accommodate the new millions of churchgoers.

A Thriving Baptist Church

Detroit's booming Temple Baptist Church has dedicated new buildings to take care of its growing membership of 15,200 people and its Sunday school with an enrollment of 5,000. The \$2,000,000 church and Sunday school facilities constitute one of the largest of any church in America.

Pill to Prevent Blues

The latest magic pellet, reported to a convention of psychiatrists in St. Louis, is a pill to cure the blues. It is reported to lift people out of mild depressions, caused by broken hearts, retirement and family problems.

The pill is said to lack the bad effects, such as sleeplessness, of other drugs used for the same general purposes.

Men have learned on many magic curealls for the blues over the centuries — and all let him down in one way or another.

Science, it would seem, would do better to quit searching for a pill to cure the blues and seek one which would prevent them altogether. "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; . . . and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:28,29.

California's Suicides

California's suicide rate now at 18.1 per 100,000 far exceeds the national average which has reached a rate of 10.1 per 100,000 population. Although suicide is the ninth cause of death in the United States, little is done about it.

Costly Hangovers

Day and night in the United States the nation's drinkers spend an average of \$1,128,424 an hour for the privilege of having hangovers.

Catholic Converts

According to Dr. Daniel A. Poling, Editor of the interdenominational *Christian Herald* magazine, the result of a poll conducted by the *Christian Herald* reveals that 4,000,000 Roman Catholics have become Protestants as opposed to 1,071,897 Protestants who have become Catholics. Dr. Poling points out that this is merely an estimate based on a poll of a cross section of United States Protestant ministers.

Fortunate Americans

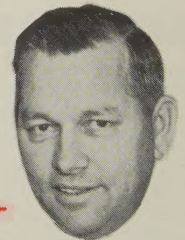
Americans enjoyed a per capita income of \$1,709 in 1953 according to a study made by the office of business economics of the department of commerce. California's figure was slightly higher, \$2,039.

How much better off are Americans as a whole than the rest of the world is shown by comparable figures prepared by the President's International Development Advisory Board.

These list the per capita income of western Europe as \$473, of Latin America \$152, of Africa \$118, of the Middle East \$89, of southern Asia \$55 and of southeast Asia \$30.

L. W. Suter says:

Let's make that goal of 1,000 registrations for the Southwest Regional Sunday School Convention. Send me your registration NOW. Address P. O. Box 961, Santa Cruz.



L. W. SUTER
District S. S.
Representative

The Southwest Regional Sunday School Convention is a project in which our Northern California and Nevada District is participating. For additional information see page 14. You are urged to attend.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

February 8, 9, 10, 1955

LONG BEACH

CALIFORNIA